

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAND
USE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT PLAN TO ESTABLISH THE 2002 INTEGRATED LIST OF
WATERBODIES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Take Notice that on December 23, 2002 an amendment to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) as part of the Department's continuing planning process pursuant to the Water Quality Planning Act at N.J.S.A. 58:11A-7 and the Statewide Water Quality Management Planning rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15-6.4(a). This amendment adopts sublist 5 of the 2002 Integrated List of Waterbodies. The adoption of sublist 5 of the Integrated' List satisfies New Jersey's requirements under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)).

The State is required to biennially prepare and submit to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) a report addressing the overall water quality of the State's waters in accordance with Section 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1315(b)). This report is commonly known as the 305(b) Report or the Water Quality Inventory Report. In November 2001, the USEPA issued guidance that encourages states to integrate the 305(b) Report and the 303(d) list into one report. Under this method, each waterbody assessed is assigned to one of five categories or sublists. The Department prepared its 2002 303(d) list based upon the November 2001 USEPA guidance and is adopting sublist 5 as required by Section 303(d). Sublist 5 of the 2002 Integrated List (as known as the 303(d) list) is now part of the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan and replaces the existing 1998 303(d) list.

Sublist 5 or the 303 (d) list contains waterbodies which are determined or suspected to be "use impaired" meaning the quality of the water does not meet the water quality standards or that an actual impairment has been identified or suspected. These standards are established to protect existing and designated use. Impaired waters on Sublist 5 will be further assessed to determine whether the source of the impairment is a pollutant requiring the establishment of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), whether other enforceable measures are appropriate to address the impairment or a determination that the waterbody is meeting water quality standards

The Department published notice of the Draft 2002 *Integrated List* on May 20, 2002 (34 N.J.R. 1869(a)). This notice also announced the 2002 *Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods Document* that accompanies the *Integrated List*. This document includes a description of the quality assurance requirements as well as methods used to evaluate water quality data and assess water, quality standards attainment, and the rationale for the placement of waterbodies on the *Integrated List*. The Department incorporated, as appropriate, information received in response to the Department's May 21, 2001 notice soliciting water quality related data. (see 33 N.J.R. 1794(a)). The Department republished the Draft 2002 *Integrated List* and the 2002 *Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods Document* based on the comments received. (see 33 N.J.R. 2868).

The adopted 2002 *Integrated List* including Sublist 5 (also known as the 303(d) list), Sublist 5 with Priority Rankings, the *Two Year TMDL Schedule*, the *Summary of Public Comments and the Agency Responses*, and the revised 2002 *Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods Document* are available on the Department's website at

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/watershed/intezratedlist/>. The Department has mailed copies of the *Summary of Public Comments and the Agency Responses* to all parties which commented on the Methods Document, the Integrated List and/or Sublist 5. Copies of the *Summary of Public Comments and the Agency Responses* are additionally available from the Bureau of Water Quality Standards and Assessment, P.O. Box 409, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 or by calling (609) 777-1753.

DATE: 12/20/02

Ernest P Hahn

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